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AGAWAM

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AHS senior moms create gifts for class of 2021

By Shelby Macri
smacri@turley.com

AGAWAM – Agawam High School's Class of 2021 has experienced unique school years with the COVID-19 pandemic, due to the pandemic many activities have been cancelled.

To properly celebrate the senior's, a group of mom's bound together to create gift bags for all the senior's. The Senior Moms group was created by Wendy Rua, who wanted to do something nice for the senior's during their last year. Rua and 14 other moms spread the word about the gift bags on social media and by word of mouth. They did this to help raise money to buy senior t-shirts and other fun items for the gift bag. Within a week, the Senior Moms GoFundMe page was able to raise their goal amount and they ordered all their items on-line.

"We have a great parent group that's just supporting the seniors," Principal Thomas Schnepf said. "I really want to stress the parent group here, they made all the signs, set up this event and area,

and have worked to make something fun for the students."

Schnepf was in contact with Rua and fellow senior mom Sherry Balzano to coordinate the how to hold the event to hand out gift bags. After the town saw snow on Tuesday Feb. 2, the group was determined to hand out the gifts no matter rain or shine on Friday

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The senior gift bags included multiple items like a senior shirt that the mom's designed and ordered, along with fun things like stress balls and sunglasses.



From left; Wendy McAnanama, Sherry Balzano, Wendy Rua, and Rhonda Tyrowicz volunteered to hand out gifts to seniors on Feb. 5. PHOTOS BY SHELBY MACRI

Agawam senior receives Girl Scout Gold Award

By Shelby Macri
smacri@turley.com

AGAWAM – Agawam High School Senior Serena Croteau recently completed the highest award project in Girl Scouts and has received the Gold Award.

Croteau created supply bins called safety stashes for school classrooms, specifically to be used when sheltering in place for an emergency or intruder in the building. She said that the high school students have been partaking in a training system called ALICE, an acronym for Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, and Evade. The training is to prepare students in case of an intruder in the school, a natural disaster, or other emergencies where students will be in their classroom

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Serena Croteau from Agawam High School completed her Gold Award project in Girl Scouts. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Soldiers' Home seeks redemption

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – In the wake of an unprecedented tragedy, the Soldiers' Home in Holyoke is seeking redemption. After at least 76 elderly veterans residing in the facility succumbed to COVID-19 last spring, the state aspires to return the site to its former glory.

The fifth legislative hearing pertaining to the Soldiers' Home outbreak occurred on Jan. 21. Health and Human Services Secretary Marylou Sudders listed several of the measures being taken to ensure that such an event never reoccurs.

First, she identified several rampant problems that were observed under the home's former leadership, which contributed to the removal and arraignment of former Superintendent Bennett Walsh.

"There were not the internal processes, clinical management



Legislature hearings continue regarding the tragic loss of 76 veterans during the early stages of the COVID-19 outbreak. PHOTO BY DALTON ZBIERSKI

and operations, to withstand a pandemic," said Sudders. "There are many nursing homes in Massachusetts that faced the pandemic, including [the Soldiers Home in Chelsea], but their internal structures didn't collapse. What happened at Holyoke, from my read of everything, was a complete collapse because it didn't exist. Staff were left on their own to

come up with responses."

More than 80 Soldiers' Home staff were sickened during the early stages of the pandemic, treating residents, as the novel coronavirus overran the facility.

Sudders identified that the widespread use of mandatory overtime and unpredictable staffing schedules had long been trou-

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ARREST LOG

The Agawam Police Department responded to 996 calls for service from Feb. 1 to Feb. 8 and recorded the following arrests. No arrests in the public log have been omitted. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty.

Friday, Feb. 5

Jason M. Gormley, 39, 1523 Carew St., Springfield, was charged with marked lines violation, negligent operation of a motor vehicle, operating under the influence of liquor, and wanton destruction of property.

Eucharistic Adoration at St. John's

AGAWAM – All are welcome and invited to join us at St. John the Evangelist Church, 833 Main Street, for Eucharistic Adoration, Wednesdays, 12 noon to 5:45 p.m. with Holy Mass at 6:00 p.m. Come and spend some time in quiet prayer with our Lord Jesus Christ, present in the Eucharist.

STCC to offer certified auto damage appraiser course in March

SPRINGFIELD – Springfield Technical Community College will offer a certified auto damage appraiser course for insurance claims professionals and auto body technicians beginning March 1.

The 60-hour course is the first step to becoming an auto damage appraiser in Massachusetts. The training through STCC's Workforce Development Center prepares students for the exam to be a licensed appraiser.

Classes will be held Mondays and Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., through May 10. Classes will be held Mondays and Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., through May 10. Students will meet in the Scibelli Hall (Building 2) theater and must follow the college's COVID-19 protocol. The auditorium seats 200, but the class size will be limited to no more than 20 individuals. Masks are required.

Approved by the Massachusetts Division of Insurance, the training offers an in-depth dis-

cussion of insurance regulations, policy arbitration and work completion forms.

The instructor has 20 years' experience in the collision repair and insurance industry in Massachusetts and Connecticut and holds auto appraiser licenses in both states.

The course will include the use of flat rate manual, collision diagnosis, cost estimation and preparation of written estimates.

To become licensed, students will need to complete the course and a three-month apprenticeship with a licensed Massachusetts automobile appraiser. In addition, they will need to obtain a certified letter verifying the apprenticeship. The apprenticeship must be completed prior to applying to take the Massachusetts Automobile Damage Appraisers License Examination.

For more information and to enroll online, visit www.stcc.edu/wdc and then click on "auto damage appraiser." To contact the Workforce Development Center Office, call (413) 755-4225.

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until the building is cleared.

"The safety stashes are Home Depot sized buckets that have supplies for emergency situations, I wanted to do something that was close to my heart and helped my community," Croteau said. "This was perfect because it combines those, I'm a part of the community service club helping hands and I'm glad I was able to make this happen."

She said that she sat with her mom to figure out a good project to work on, and when she thought of providing supplies in class her friends, family, and troop members were there to support her.

That included her grandmother, Celeste Planzo, co-leader of Troop 20559 with Michelle Salva after Croteau's original troop leader retired.

Other scout parents weren't able to take on the role and Planzo had just retired, so in 2014 Planzo took on the role and has followed Croteau and other scouts on their journey.

"I was a girl scout when I was younger, it's a good organization for the girls and I'm familiar with it," Planzo said. "She [Croteau] is a leader, she has a lot of leadership qualities that are unusual at a young age. She put a lot of work in."

Along with Planzo, Croteau was assigned mentors from the organization to talk with and brainstorm ideas while working on her project. Which came in handy for Croteau as she started her project in October 2019, with donation bins in the Library and the Senior Center until the COVID-19 virus caused the shutdown last spring. Croteau collected the donated items from both locations and started figuring out

ways to continue her project. She reached out to friends, family, and made posts on social media to receive donations at her house or at the high school for her to pick up and clean at home.

Croteau said she also received money donations so she could buy essential supplies that were not donated or that she needed more of. Within the safety stash is water bottles, bungee cords, baby wipes, bug spray, glow sticks, latex free gloves, hand sanitizer, extra door stops, first aid kit, a flashlight and batteries, and more items to help during an emergency situation. The list of approved items was created by the school within the emergency training, and Croteau tried to stick close to the assigned items. She also was able to keep up her goal of 100 safety stashes, that she cut to 50 when COVID struck.

"I was actually able to put together 101 safety stashes, and I had plenty of extra supplies and money donations that I'd like to give to the junior high so they can start some safety stashes," Croteau said. "I'm going to give the extra money donations to helping hands so they can donate it to the junior high accordingly. I'm hoping that they'll start making their own buckets and it will pass on to the middle school as well."

Croteau was proud to have completed her project and be able to pass it on to the other schools, especially with thinking of moving on to college soon. When the pandemic ensued last year she had to stop working on it during the summer and continued again in Aug., when the emergency supplies were needed. Croteau said she figured every classroom needed these supplies with returning from COVID, driving her to get these safety stashes in classes fast as well as putting extra baby wipes and hand sanitizer in

Winter donations still needed

AGAWAM – Sacred Heart Parish Center at 1061 Springfield Street in Feeding Hills has been collecting donations of white socks, hats, scarfs, gloves and gently used and washed coats for the past few weeks. We have so far made four truck loads to the South Congregational Church in Springfield where the donations are sorted and made available to those in need. Because there has continued to be a very great need in our communities, the drive will now continue through the end of March 2021. Our next time to donate American Chop Suey for the Loaves and Fishes Soup Kitchen will be Mar. 6, please bring your donations to our Parish Center by Mar. 4. If you have any questions, please call our Pastoral Minister Deb Briancesco RN at 786.8200 ext. 3.



Serena Croteau created Safety Stashes for her Gold Award project in Girl Scouts. SUBMITTED PHOTO

the buckets.

When she completed her project Croteau presented it to the organization leaders, and meet with four or five leaders over zoom to talk about the project before they awarded it in December. Croteau is hoping to attend the award ceremony in June to formerly receive her gold award in person, provided that it's safe to do so.

"It's a complete honor to get this award," Croteau said. "It felt really good to do it and finish it and it's a great honor to help my community."

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Feb. 5 in front of the school.

Schnepp helped the group of moms by providing hot coffee, tables, tents, music, and storage room in the cafeteria for the total amount of senior gifts. Four members of the parent group took time off work to volunteer their time and hand out gifts to the senior class, the effort was worth it when they saw their concept come to life. Senior parents Wendy McAnanama and Rhonda Typrowicz also took time from their day to pass out gifts and say hello to the students that stopped by.

The group wanted to hand out the gifts as soon as possible as some seniors were able to graduate early, about 50 students graduated early and the group wanted them to receive senior gifts as well before they moved on to college. In order to give every senior their gift the group planned two time groups to hand out gifts, the first being around lunchtime and then an afternoon session as students are still in hybrid classes. The event was held as a drive-thru to accommodate COVID safety regulations and volunteers were wearing gloves to limit contact. The four parents who volunteered stayed for the day and did not switch with others in an effort to contain contract tracing.

The gift bags included a t-shirt with a senior logo, sunglasses, bubbles, water, chips, candy, stickers, fidget spinner, mug, stress balls, and a dollar bill; along with a checklist of what these items represent. There were also letters in the bag from sixth graders in the Doering Middle School, to lift the spirits of the seniors and because Balzano's daughter created the senior logo and a letter for her brother who is a senior. The moms figured it would be fun to include the younger class and show how appreciated this year's senior class is.

Including those seniors who graduated early, there were 268 seniors to pass out gift bags to. The moms packaged all of the gift bags at Rua's house on a Sunday afternoon, they packaged them outside with gloves on to keep things sanitary and controlled.

"We wanted to show the seniors support so we decided to make these bags, the mom's also created inspiring signs and a sign with all the senior's names on it," Rua said. "It's taken some planning and we're all making sacrifices to volunteer our time today, but it's all so worth it seeing the smiles on their faces."

Along with seeing students smiles, the parents were able to greet all the students their own kids grew up with as they haven't seen these students in months due to the pandemic. Teachers and staff came out in twos and threes to stand by the pick-up spot and wave to students, staying for 30 minutes or so before going back to their classes and switching with other teachers. The parents and school staff enjoyed holding the event despite the rain that began the minute the Senior Mom's started handing its out. Schnepp helped to pass the word along and created a video message for seniors to remind them, the staff enjoyed the event as much as the seniors.

Rua said that the Senior Mom's group is interested holding more event's during the semester as well, to raise the students spirits but in a safe way. She mentioned a car parade, senior adoption, and other activities in the spring. Rua wants the seniors to look forward to something since events like prom and spirit assemblies have been cancelled. Though the students still have the spring semester to look forward to; seniors Reese Bourgeois, Abbie Waris, and Rilee Tourville shared that they are looking forward to sports and graduation in the spring.

"The adjustment has been difficult, but we dealt with changes last year, now we're hybrid with less classes but things are still different," Waris said. "It's nice that they did this and got gifts together, it's good and really thoughtful of them."

While the parent group enjoyed putting on this small event, they spoke about wanted to hold more actives in the future and maybe the mom group will grow to include parents of rising seniors and rising juniors. Though the group was formed to replace typical yearly events Rua thinking the group can plan events for students even after they return to regular schooling. Seniors should look out for possible events held by the parent group who unofficially named themselves the Senior Moms.



From left; Abbie Waris, Reese Bourgeois, and Rilee Tourville pick up their senior gifts during lunch break and stay safe while doing it. PHOTOS BY SHELBY MACRI



From left; AHS Principal Thomas Schnepp, Rhonda Typrowicz, Sherry Balzano, Wendy Rua, and Wendy McAnanama stand by the "Senior Strong" poster at one of the main entrances of the school.



The senior moms helped create signs and decorate the area that seniors drove through for the senior gift bags, the group moved the bags inside when cleaning up but left no car behind when they drove up.



The senior moms helped to make signs to decorate the school, including a sign that has all the names of the 2021 graduating class, to celebrate every senior.

Lenten mission events set for this weekend

AGAWAM – St. John the Evangelist Church, 833 Main Street, Agawam, will host "Living Lent Well," a Lenten parish mission, Thursday, Feb. 11 through Sunday, Feb. 14, led by Father Scott Hastings.

Below is the complete "Living Lent Well" schedule:

Feb. 11, 7 p.m. - Mission Talk: "God's Disposition Toward Us"

Feb. 12, 7 p.m. - Mission Talk: "Receiving God's Love"

Feb. 13 and 14 - Mission Homilies

Feb. 14, 2:30 to 5 p.m.: Confession and Eucharistic Adoration

Father Hastings will also speak at each weekend Mass, Feb. 13 at 4 p.m., Feb. 14 at 8:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m., and 1:30 p.m.

Fr. Scott Hastings was born and raised in Omaha. He did his undergrad at the University of Dallas, and then studied at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary in St. Louis. He was ordained in 2008, and served at Sacred Heart Parish in Norfolk, taught Spanish at Norfolk Catholic High School, and then was pastor of St. Leonard Parish in Madison, NE. He is currently Archbishop Lucas' Vicar for Clergy and Judicial Vicar, a practicing canon lawyer, and a resident at St. Peter Parish in Omaha. Fr. Scott is active in the ecclesial movement of Communion and Liberation. The priesthood is the joy of his life.

The event is free. Social distancing and face coverings will be observed.



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Opinion

OUR VIEW

Combatting cabin fever inside and out

Winters in New England can seem very long in the best of years, but this past fall and now as we find ourselves deep into winter this February, it may seem even longer than normal as COVID-19 remains with us after almost a year.

Punxsutawney Phil, the ever-popular, Pennsylvania groundhog removed from his burrow each year to prognosticate about how many more weeks of winter we'll see before spring makes its anxiously-awaited appearance, made his annual visit above ground on Feb. 2. Unfortunately, he saw his shadow and determined there will be six weeks more of winter.

Luckily, Massachusetts' "famous" groundhog, Ms. G, the official state groundhog of our state also made her annual appearance on Feb. 2. She did not see her shadow and so predicted an early spring. How early we don't yet know. She lives at the Massachusetts Audubon education center, Drumlin Farm, in Lincoln.

It remains to be seen if either forecast is accurate. In the Holyoke area, at least, skunks are already on the move again, a sure sign spring is headed our way. Of course the Paper City is usually a little warmer than many other Western Mass locations, so who knows?

Whether Phil's or Mrs. G's forecasting proves true, we are all getting at least a touch of cabin fever, and there's certainly stronger feelings of restlessness and boredom running through us all and our friends and family.

So what to do? Considering our very recent snow, one can choose to educate oneself and go hiking, but if you're new to the activity make sure you learn about the right clothing to wear based on temperatures and planned activities.

If you haven't investigated doing so before cross-country skiing and snowshoeing are possible now that we have plenty of the white stuff.

And if you've never tried ice fishing and you're willing to take a ride, you can head to Russell, where the Woronoco Heights Outdoor Adventures' ice fishing staff, with Craig Mannix, will be on hand to help you. With over 30 years of ice fishing experience, Mannix and his team will be available to show even the most novice fisherman how to catch the big ones under the ice. For those folks without the proper ice fishing equipment, plenty of "pop-ups" and other tools necessary to successfully find fish will be available for use out on the frozen lake.

While at Woronoco Heights on Feb. 20, it's also possible to try blacksmithing with the help of a Forged in Fire contestant as well as snowshoeing and/or mountain biking, although COVID-19 safety restrictions require all to bring their own bike helmets. There will also be orienteering, escape challenges and scavenger hunt bingo as well as other activities. If Mother Nature cooperates with the right weather, there may be trips out to the Top O' The Hill Maple "sugar shack" where visitors are rewarded for their efforts with samples of their sweet, freshly boiled, maple syrup.

The events go on from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and it's \$10 a piece for everyone regardless of age.

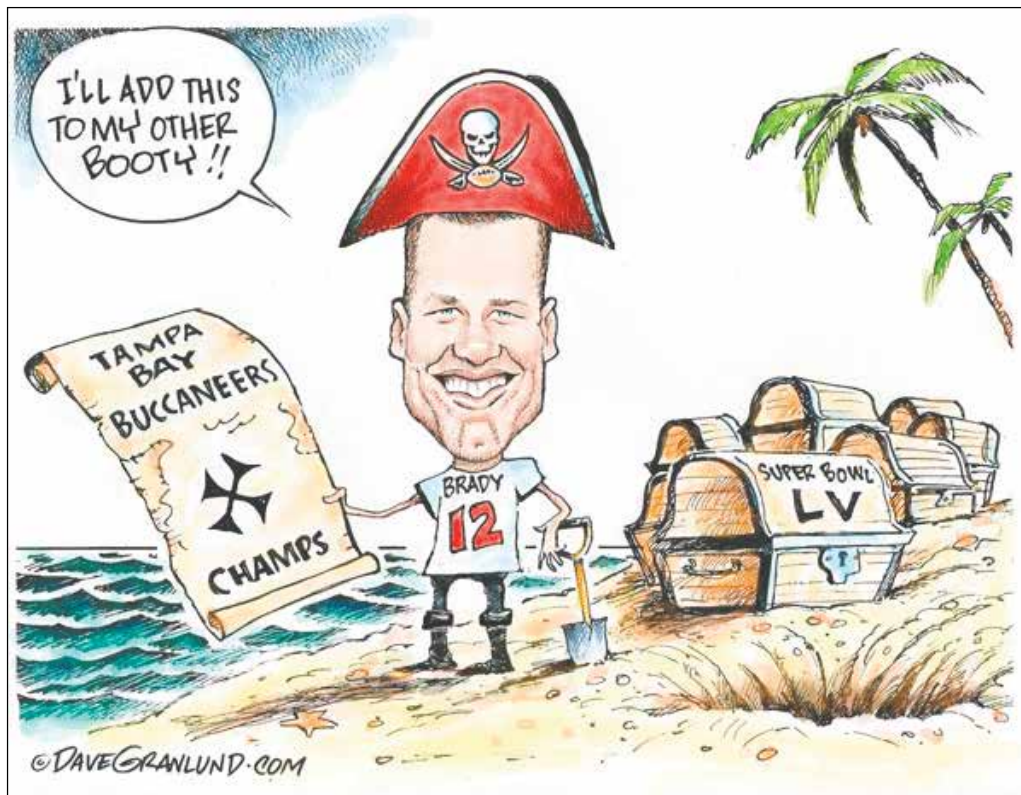
But if the cold weather, snow and ice isn't your or your family's thing, there are plenty of indoor activities on Zoom or other video conferencing applications.

Area groups and libraries have worked hard to keep us all entertained – and with the ubiquity of Zoom, it's possible to enjoy programs you might not have considered participating in before from the comfort of your own living room.

Dreaming of gardening in the spring? The East Quabbin Land Trust, will host a book discussion on Feb. 25, from 7 to 8:30 p.m., on "Nature's Best Hope: A New Approach to Conversation That Starts in Your Yard," by Douglas Tallamy, a professor of entomology at the University of Delaware. He is also the author of "Bringing Nature Home." He will discuss how homeowners can turn their yards into conservation corridors that provide wildlife habitats.

It's free and people should email Jess Cusworth at the trust at Jcusworth@eqt.org if they are interested, and she will send you the Zoom link.

The trust, the Trustees of the Reservation and Massachusetts Audubon all have outdoor and indoor activities, and libraries across the state have all kinds of online programs to enjoy, so take a walk through the World Wide Web and see what you can find to distract yourself until spring.



Fresh flower care and flowers for free

With St. Valentine's Day coming up this Sunday, my thoughts turn to flowers and chocolate. Flowers because I am who I am, and chocolate, because I am surely hoping hubby will provide ample quantities in a heart-shaped box! Anyway, back to the flowers..

Many folks will be graced with a bouquet of cut flowers in honor of this special holiday, and I have some tips up my sleeve to make sure you get longevity out of your gift. No matter how your flowers make it home, either in a sleeve or in a box, chances are they've been out of water for some time. Once stems start to seal up, water and nutrients won't be able to flow and their lifespan could be cut short. Therefore, the first thing you ought to do is recut them. Your goal is to have a clean cut, one that won't crush the flower's vascular system.

In fact, I've never understood advice that mentions smashing floral stems; don't do it! Use bypass clippers, or if you're comfortable, a sharp knife. Household scissors usually aren't sharp enough, since they are geared more for cutting paper or fabric. Most advice books recommend making your cut on a 45 degree angle to expose the most surface area possible to water. Another trick is to cut the flower stems under water—this process will prevent air bubbles from clogging the stems. I usually fill a clean sink or bucket, submerge the flower stems and cut 1 or 2" off the bottom. If you've ever had a rose with a bent head, that is an air bubble at work. Try re-cutting the stem under water and hopefully the bubble will be forced out.

As you move your flowers into a vase (make sure it's clean!), remove any leaves that you estimate will be under the water line. Waterlogged leaves will rot and make bacteria that can clog stems, shorten vase life and make quite a stench! Some flowers do better if most of their foliage is removed, the reason being that the leaves draw water away from the main stem, and therefore away from the flower head. I generally snip off all

the leaves of lilac, and remove all but the uppermost leaves of hydrangeas and zinnias. Usually a small packet of floral preservative is included along with your flowers. Using this in your vase of water will feed the blooms and encourage them to open to their fullest, vivid-color potential!

This year, Valentine's Day coincides with the start of February vacation. Why not snip some branches of your favorite spring shrubs for a neat experiment with the kids? Just think, when the bought flowers are long gone, you'll have some others waiting in the wings. The most common shrub to force in the vase is the forsythia; it can be done as early as late January or February, and right up until regular, outdoor bloom time.

Cut the branches on a day that temperatures are above freezing. The best for forcing are those that have many swollen buds. Bring them indoors and recut the stems just as you did for your cut flowers: under water and with a diagonal cut. The branches can then be put in a container or vase with a few inches of water in it.

I usually steer away from using floral preservative on flowering shrubs. Any side branches or buds that fall below the water line should be removed. Change the water every few days to prevent bacteria growth. If kept in a warm room, buds should break within a few weeks. Many other of our favorite spring-blooming trees and shrubs can also be forced into bloom. Try the same approach with redbud, honeysuckle, crabapple, magnolia and flowering almond, cherry and plum.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekennedy@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.



Roberta McQuaid

Holyoke Medical Center seeks blood and plasma donors

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Medical Center is actively seeking blood and convalescent plasma donors. The center's Blood Bank depends on area residents, their friends and neighbors to help meet the transfusion needs of the local community.

"The demand for convalescent plasma is higher than the supply that has been donated throughout the region. People who have recovered from COVID-19 are encouraged to make a donation and help save the lives of up to two people in our community," said Jon Gronbach, director of laboratory services at Holyoke Medical Center.

Convalescent plasma is a liquid component of blood from patients who have recovered from COVID-19. Patients who have recovered from the disease have antibodies to protect themselves to fight the virus. By making a blood and convalescent plasma donation, recovered pa-

tients can help others fight COVID-19 as well.

Blood and convalescent plasma supplies continue to be low and shortages persist in all categories. Emergency supplies from the Red Cross are often limited. More than 75 percent of the blood and convalescent plasma needed by patients at the medical center comes from people living in Holyoke, Chicopee, South Hadley and the surrounding communities.

All eligible donors will receive a free recognition gift for their donation, and eligible convalescent plasma donors will receive a free COVID IgG test.

The Blood Bank, located on the first floor of Holyoke Medical Center, is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Appointments are required.

For further information or to schedule an appointment, call the HMC Blood Bank at 413-534-2591.

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Gift shop open limited hours

AGAWAM – The Vine and Branches Gift Shop will continue to be open on Tuesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. We would like to thank everyone for their patronage during these difficult times and we will continue to pray for health, peace and strength as we all journey through 2021 together. You may contact our Pastoral Minister Deb Briancesco RN at 413-786-8200 ext.3 with any questions or concerns.

HCC spring session II classes start Feb. 16

HOLYOKE — The spring 2021 semester officially began at Holyoke Community College on Monday, Jan. 25, but prospective students still have two more opportunities to start classes in February and March. Spring session II classes at HCC begin Tuesday, Feb. 16. Spring start III classes begin Monday, March 29. “HCC introduced two “Flexible Fall” start dates last semester to accommodate students as they adjusted to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, and they were very popular,” said Mark Hudgik, HCC’s director of Admissions. “We decided to continue this spring with two flexible start dates for

students who may not have been ready on Jan. 25.” Feb. 16-start classes run for 12 weeks. March 29-start classes run for seven. All spring semester courses conclude by Wednesday, May 12. Students who enroll for spring session II or III have the opportunity to take a variety of different classes in a wide array of academic areas and can earn as many as four credits per course for a lab science, such as biology or forensic science. These accelerated spring courses are being offered in anatomy and physiology, anthropology, biology, communication,

culinary arts, Earth science, education, engineering, English, English as a Second Language, forensic science, history, human services, marketing, math, medical assisting, nutrition, philosophy, political science, psychology, social science, and sociology. With the exception of culinary arts and medical assisting classes, which include in-person, on-campus components, all spring session II and III classes are either fully online or “blended remote,” which means they include both asynchronous lessons and real-time virtual instruction. A full list of classes for spring session II and III can be viewed at hcc.edu/spring.

SOLDIERS ■ from page 1

blesome. Prior to the pandemic’s arrival, Sudders ordered that the home be made the subject of a staffing study. “I was, frankly, stunned that there had never been a permanent staffing schedule at the home; that’s like a basic. Staff should not have to figure out week to week what their schedules are going to be,” said Sudders. “There was an overuse of overtime. When I say that, it’s either some people using a lot of overtime to fill gaps in staffing structures or positions are not aligned in a way where you have a permanent staffing structure.” Employees would often call out simply because they had failed to receive their schedules in a timely manner and couldn’t reschedule personal commitments. Moving forward, time-off requests will be posted in three-month blocks. The lack of structure led directly to a high turnover rate amongst staff, who did not receive proper training or development. Sudders noted that changes have been implemented over the past 10 months. “The home did not have a strong internal nursing ongoing development program. That has been one of the reforms that we have in place. If you hire staff, and don’t then make sure they have the skills to do



Measures have been taken to ensure no further major outbreaks occur. PHOTOS BY DALTON ZBIERSKI

the job, you’re going to have high turnover,” said Sudders. While the facility had an adequate number of full-time employees registered at the onset of the pandemic, Sudders noted that they were not properly aligned. Under new leadership, the home has ad-



There is currently a movement to make many renovations to the home, but disputing views of how much work is needed and how many beds the facility should have.

opted a permanent clinical staffing structure. To best keep employees accountable, the facility is being held to the gold-star standard set forth by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid.

“I believe that the Holyoke Soldiers’ Home should be CMS certified. That’s always been my position; that we should lean towards that for many reasons, including the fact that there’s really no reason why it should not be,” said Sudders. Sudders does not believe that is appropriate for the Board of Trustees to create policies and procedures. It is her belief that the board should review policies and procedures only after they’ve been written by management at the home. The state now requires that the home be inspected annually by the Department of Public Health. Infection control policies and procedures have also been updated. An October DPH study found that the facility is now clean, staff are knowledgeable and well-trained on the use of PPE and infection control policies and the operation is largely compliant with the CMS survey. “That is very important because it gives transparency and confidence going forward. I do think those kinds of public inspections are important,” said Sudders. “I think that we are on a good path of reform. I think clarifying the government structure for the home is very important.” Dalton Zbierski is a Staff Writer, who can be reached at dzbierski@turley.com.



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CLUES ACROSS

1. Composed
5. Lesotho currency
9. Ethnic group associated with Hungarians
11. Gains knowledge of
13. Gradual destruction
15. Purchase
16. Pharaoh of lower Egypt
17. Where you're going
19. The 6th letter of the Greek alphabet
21. Fishing net
22. Midway between south and southeast
23. A way to sort
25. C C C
26. Popular sports podcast (abbr.)
27. Discount
29. Consumes tobacco
31. A way to run

CLUES DOWN

33. Popular musical awards show
34. Pertains to the male sexual organ
36. Supplements with difficulty
38. Green veggie
39. Deep-bodied freshwater fish
41. Holy fire
43. Usually has a lid
44. Being of use or service
46. Have a yen for
48. Unknowingness
52. Dry white wine drink
53. Unwinds
54. Traveling by sea
56. Outdoor entertaining areas
57. Stringed instruments
58. ___ Redgrave, actress

59. Moves earth
26. Former monetary unit of Spain
28. Foodies
30. New Zealand parrot
32. Makes very happy
34. A payment required for not fulfilling a contract
35. Emerald Isle
37. The act of terminating someone's employment
38. Gland in some mammals
40. Commoner
42. Large animals
43. Belch
45. Employee stock ownership plan
47. Work units
49. Wagon
50. Nerve fiber
51. Proclaimed
55. Japanese delicacy

Schools & Youth

Agawam High School Counseling Bulletin

Reminders:

Scheduling for the 2021-2022 school year is just around the corner! Students should be on the lookout for an email that will be sent to their APS account. We are excited to move this process fully online this year.

Members of the Class of 2021 should familiarize themselves with the information that has been posted to the Post-Secondary Planning section under the Counseling tab of the High School webpage. Most recently, the Senior College Application Packet was added, which is a great resource for students interested in applying to two- and four-year colleges.

core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/937652/Senior_Application_Packet_2020-2021.pdf

The COVID-19 pandemic has created uncertainty among students and families about nearly all aspects of the college admission process, including the role of standardized testing. We were scheduled to host testing in November, but did not feel it was prudent to have students from "red" area and states in our building. We looked into hosting school day testing for just Agawam students, but the next available date is in March. Due to the cancellation of SAT and ACT testing dates, more than 1,630 US colleges and universities announced they are moving to a test-optional policy, and more will surely follow. By going test-optional, institutions are making a definitive statement that they will not need test scores to make admission decisions this year. Despite the change in policies, high school students and their parents are asking, "Does test optional really mean test optional?" The answer, simply put, is: YES.

Please keep in mind that some colleges may require SAT or ACT scores for certain majors and/or the awarding of merit money. We encourage you to contact any schools that are of interest to you (website, email, or phone) to confirm that test scores are not required for your intended major and/or the awarding of merit money.

All students should be checking their Naviance accounts on a regular basis. There is so much valuable information for all students, whether you're headed directly into the work force, the military, or college upon graduation from AHS. If you can't access your account, please be in touch with your School Counselor.

Open Houses/Informational Sessions/Discovery Days:

The National Association of College Admission Counseling will be hosting its first Virtual College Fair on Sunday, Jan. 31 from 1 to 7 p.m. Additionally, there are smaller Focus Fairs designed especially for students with special interests or residing in specific regions: STEM (Mar. 7), Performing & Visual Arts (Mar. 16), Western US (Apr. 10), and

Southeastern US (Apr. 20). Students may register at virtualcollegefairs.org

MASSHIRE will be hosting a series of webinars surrounding Exploring Professions in Healthcare. The sessions will be held Jan. 27 (12 noon to 1:30 p.m.), Feb. 10 (12 noon to 1:30 p.m.) and Feb. 24 (12 noon to 1:30 p.m.). Please contact Phylis Gedeon at pgedeon@masshirespringfield.org or 413-858-2818.

Whether you've already started your college search or have no idea where to begin, BigFuture Days will give you a chance to get information about multiple colleges from college admissions officers and current college students. The program for the Northeast will be held on Sunday, Mar. 7. Please visit cb.org/bigfuturedays to register and learn more!

Colleges and universities will be hosting information and recruitment events, in a variety of formats, in the next couple of months. Check the colleges' websites for more information and to confirm the date and time of the event. While campus visits may look and feel different during this time, it is important to take advantage of these programs to learn as much as you can about the schools that are of interest to you.

Scholarship Information:

See your counselor or visit the websites below for more information or an application.

Tenaska, founded in 1987, is a privately held energy company committed to being good neighbors in the communities where its plants are located. To express that commitment, scholarships are offered through the high schools located in the counties with plant operations (Berkshire Power Company in our area). Applicants must be a 2021 graduating high school senior who plan to attend a two- or four-year post-secondary education program at an accredited institution. The scholarship amount is \$1500, and applications, which are available at Tenaska.com/scholarship-form, are due no later than Feb. 12.

The Yawkey Scholars Program is designed to make college affordable for talented and motivated students from Massachusetts. It provides a four-year renewable tuition scholarship to a Massachusetts private college to help students achieve academically and go on to be successful and highly productive members of our community. Students must meet specific financial guidelines to be eligible. Applications, which are due by 5 p.m. on Feb. 12 are available at yawkeyfoundation.org/how-we-give/yawkey-scholars-program.

The Department of Higher Education (in partnership with EOHHS and the Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Commission) will be offering the Moving to College Housing Scholarship. This scholarship will

include year-round, on-campus housing, a meal plan and case management (it does NOT cover the cost of tuition, books or transportation) for students who enroll in a full-time in a degree-seeking program at one of the participating colleges: Berkshire Community College, Mass College of Liberal Arts, Massachusetts Bay Community College, Framingham State University, Mt. Wachusett Community College, Fitchburg State University, North Shore Community College and Salem State University. To be eligible, students must have experienced unaccompanied youth homelessness, be a US citizen or permanent resident/green card holder, and meet income limits. More information and the application can be found here: doe.mass.edu/sfs/edstability/mtc.html. Please note that applications are due by March 1.

The William R. Rooney Scholarship is available to residents of Hampden County who are members of the senior class and have been on an IEP or 504 Plan for two years. Please visit horacesmithfund.org for an application. The application deadline is March 15.

The Walter S. Barr Scholarship is available to residents of Hampden County who are members of the senior class at their local public or private secondary schools. Awards will be made on the basis of all available information, including school records, recommendations and examination scores. Awards will be continued through the four year course if the student's record and need justify such continuance. Consideration will be given to both the merit and financial need of the applicant. Please see horacesmithfund.org for details. The application deadline is March 15.

The Professional Women in Construction (PWC) - CT Chapter is pleased to offer multiple scholarships to students (male or female) enrolled in undergraduate or graduate degree programs in Construction, Construction Management, Interior Design, Architecture, Landscape Design, or Civil, Mechanical, Structural, and Electrical Engineering. The students must be enrolled full-time for the complete year. The application is available at pwcusa.org/chapters/about-connecticut/connecticut-scholarship/ and is due no later than March 17.

Seniors who attended the James Clark School (two-year minimum) are encouraged to apply for the James Clark PTO Scholarship. Applications are available in Naviance and are due no later than March 29.

HCC spring session II classes start Feb. 16

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These accelerated spring courses are being offered in anatomy and physiology, anthropology, biology, communication, culinary arts, Earth science, education, engineering, English, English as a Second Language, forensic science, history, human services, marketing, math, medical assisting, nutrition, philosophy, political science, psychology, social science, and sociology.

With the exception of culinary arts and medical assisting classes, which include in-person, on-campus components, all spring session II and III classes are either fully online or "blended remote," which means they include both asynchronous lessons and real-time virtual instruction.

A full list of classes for spring session II and III can be viewed at hcc.edu/spring.

Church consignment shop holding Saturday hours

AGAWAM – Starting Saturday, Feb. 6, the Trading Post Consignment Shop located at the First Baptist Church of Agawam, 760 Main Street, Agawam will be extending its hours to include the first Saturday of each month. While our Wednesday hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., our Saturday hours will be 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Please come on by and check out our shop. We carry a variety of items including clothing, shoes, handbags, jewelry, toys, household and gift items.

Due to Covid -19 restrictions and workplace safety standards, we ask that patrons please adhere to our face coverings and sales space occupancy requirements. Capacity limitation signs are posted outside each sales room indicating the number of people allowed. To best maintain safe social distancing, a traffic flow pattern has been added and separate doors to enter and exit our facility are marked.

For future news and information, especially on our popular \$5 bag sale taking place in late February/early March, please visit our Facebook business page known as The Trading Post Consignment Shop or follow us on Instagram @fbctradingpost.

We thank our customers for their continued support, patience, understanding and compliance during this difficult and unprecedented times.



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STCC introduces 'house flipping' course

SPRINGFIELD – Springfield Technical Community College will offer a course designed for anyone who would like to start and own a successful “house flipping” business in Massachusetts.

House Flipping 101 is a six-week online course taught through STCC's online learning management system, Blackboard. The course, which runs Apr. 5 to May 14, will include guidelines necessary for legal and building standards in conducting work in the residential building sector. “House flipping” is a type of investment strategy in which someone purchases property not with the intention to use, but with the intention of selling it for a profit.

The course includes discussion boards, weekly content and virtual live sessions each week. Students must commit a minimum of eight hours per week to be successful. The course is asynchronous, which means lessons are not “live” or with real-time interaction. Students may complete each weekly section as their schedule allows.

The instructor, Jennifer DeForge, is a professor in the STCC Architecture and Building Technology Program. A local sustainable designer and builder in Western Massachusetts, DeForge holds a current Massachusetts Construction Supervisor License and has worked on building projects ranging from small remodels to designing and constructing energy efficient custom-built homes.

DeForge will help students understand the real estate market, where to buy a property, the foreclosure process, buying properties at tax sales and evaluating properties and estimating renovation costs.

Students also will review house flipping mistakes, tax implications, the use of tax deductions and rolling over a buyer's profits into the next flip.

The course is offered through STCC's Workforce Development Center, which delivers noncredit programs and classes that meet the ever-changing workforce demands of individuals, businesses and industries in the region.

For more information and to enroll, visit stcc.edu/wdc. For questions, call (413) 755-4225.



STCC will be offering a house-flipping course in April. SUBMITTED PHOTO



The course will teach people how to successfully buy, fix-up, and sell houses for profit.

Obituary

Lois Virginia White

Lois Virginia (Sheperd) White, 96, of Granby, MA, formerly of Feeding Hills, MA, passed away peacefully on January 20, 2021 at the home of her daughter Kathryn and son-in-law Alan Kane in Raleigh, NC.

Born in Athol, MA on March 8, 1924, Lois was the first of three children of William Sheperd Sr. and Evelyn Grace (Lunt) Sheperd. She was preceded in death by her parents and her siblings William Sheperd Jr. and Mary Lou Anderson, her son-in-law Michael White, and Douglas White Sr., her husband of 58 years.



Lois was a loving mother and homemaker, living most of her adult life in Feeding Hills with her husband and their four children. She worked alongside her husband in the ownership and operation of the Douglas C. White Plumbing and Heating business. Lois enjoyed the simple pleasures and had an unassuming nature. She enjoyed gardening, camping, reading, knitting, movies, road trips, including two epic cross-country North American journeys, and the love and care of her cats.

Lois grew up on Tully Mountain in Orange, MA and attended grades one through eight in the one-room schoolhouse in the little village at the foot of the mountain. She graduated from Orange High School and fell in love with and married a member of the Gale clan from that little village.

Lois is survived by her daughter Kathryn Kane (Alan), daughter Barbara White, son Douglas White Jr. (Rosemarie), and daughter Marion White (Carol Leonard). She is also survived by her grandchildren Wendy Kane (Kevin McNair), Michael Kane (Frauke Merry-Kane), Rachael Letendre (Eric), Rebecca Green (James), Ryan White (Maryann), and Nicole Guilbault (Alan), 11 loving great-grandchildren, and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Her final resting place will be beside her beloved husband at Tully Cemetery, the little country cemetery at the foot of Tully Mountain, near where she began her earthly journey.

Big E planning safe new 4-H activities

WEST SPRINGFIELD – Planning is underway by Eastern States Exposition and the New England 4-H community to create programming and opportunities for the youth organization to grow and thrive while keeping participants safe under COVID-19 protocols.

Gene Cassidy, President and CEO of Eastern States Exposition said, “During this unique time in our history, ESE is doing all it can to support and provide an appropriate venue for youth and agriculture, the core of our mission.”

A variety of programs and competitions for youth are being considered including the introduction of a summer 4-H competitive event. Events will be carefully planned for participants and animals to be able to properly social distance in the barns and areas on the grounds.

The group strives to explore innovative programming, to support youth and to educate them on career opportunities and workforce development.

ESE Trustee and committee member Nick Barishian said, “We have joined forces with all six New England 4-H Programs, 4-H Staff, 4-H Volunteers, and 4-H Youth from across New England to reimagine the New England 4-H Program to take its current best-in-class event, and bring it to an even better place, truly living the 4-H motto to ‘Make the Best Better.’”

More information will be available as plans develop.



Eastern States Exposition is looking to create programming for the 4-H community. SUBMITTED PHOTO

NAMI offers free peer-to-peer program

AGAWAM – NAMI Peer-to-Peer is a free eight-week, recovery-focused educational program for adults who wish to establish and maintain their wellness. Great value is placed on the individual experiences of each person in the class, participants are empowered and invited to share their own stories and the coping tools that have worked for them. Participants can create their own vision statement, SMART goals, recovery workbook, support networks, awareness grid and crisis plan.

Peer-to-peer programs are transforming and give participants the tools for self-discovery, self-care, finding community, making decisions and moving forward, making friends, building healthy relationships, setting goals, dimensions of wellness, directing care, relapse prevention, gaining confidence, relaxation, empowerment, self-acceptance and understanding and I statements.

It starts on Thursday Feb. 25, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., for eight weeks, ending on April 15.

To register go to tiny.url.com/4zr3wwv4. NAMI is the National Alliance on Mental Illness, the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization. NAMI provides advocacy, education, support and public awareness so that all individuals and families affected by mental illness can build better lives.

Free COVID-19 testing at HCC extended until March 31

HOLYOKE — Free “Stop the Spread” COVID-19 testing at Holyoke Community College has been extended until March 31, 2021, according to the Holyoke Board of Health.

Drive-through testing at HCC is conducted six days a week in parking lot H near the western entrance to the Donahue Building on the college's main campus, 303 Homestead Ave.

HCC has been serving as a “Stop the Spread” drive-through testing site since Aug. 26 to help reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Drivers are asked to enter the campus from Homestead Avenue, turn left onto the Campus Road and proceed to parking lot H. There will be signs and parking attendants on site to manage the flow of traffic.

The HCC testing site is open Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m.; and Tuesday and Thursday from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Testing is free to all Massachusetts residents, and conducted on a first come, first serve basis. There are no appointments and no referral is necessary. Turnaround time for results is typically four days or fewer.

More information on all of the Stop the Spread test sites across the state can be found at: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/stop-the-spread>

Please Note: Testing may sometimes be cancelled due to inclement weather. Be sure to visit the Holyoke Board of Health website for up-to-date information on cancellations: <https://www.holyoke.org/departments/board-of-health>

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SPORTS

HOCKEY

Brownies overwhelmed by Falcons' offense

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WEST SPRINGFIELD — It probably would not have made a huge difference who the Minnechaug hockey team faced in their season opener because they came out firing on all cylinders and never let up.

After scoring three goals in the opening period, the Falcons ex-

ploded for six goal in the second period and added four more in the third en route to a 13-1 victory over the Agawam Brownies at the Olympia Ice Center in West Springfield on Saturday, Jan. 30.

"We've been practicing for the past two weeks and the kids were ready to finally play a game today. I wasn't surprised with how well we played in today's game," said Minnechaug head coach Kyle

Bousquet. "It did take us a couple of minutes to get going, but after that everyone just got a lot more comfortable. The guys are thankful to be back out on the ice again."

It was the Falcons first game since losing to West Springfield in the Western Mass. Division 3 semifinals at Olympia last February. The start of this season was delayed by more than a month

due to the COVID 19 pandemic.

"We knew that Agawam had already played a couple of games," Bousquet said. "It really didn't matter who we were playing against because my players were fired up to play."

The last time that the Falcons scored at least ten goals in a game was a 10-2 win against Amherst two years ago.

Agawam (0-3) started the reg-

ular season a week earlier than Minnechaug did with back-to-back games against Westfield and East Longmeadow.

"Minnechaug is a very good hockey team and we were excited to play them today," said first-year Agawam head coach Todd Rowley. "We're a young team and we still have a lot of things that we need to work on."

The two head coaches gradu-



Nick Shea makes his way up the ice. PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPOTOS.COM



Owen Connery angles toward the Minnechaug goal.



Ryan Maloney flicks the puck out of the defensive end.

RACING

Challenge Cup set to finally debut

REGION — After a one-year delay, The New England Late Model Challenge Cup (NELMCC) is finally debuting in 2021 — and it will be even bigger than originally planned. American-Canadian Tour (ACT) officials confirmed today that nine tracks have signed up for the first season of the series that will pit weekly Late Model racers from across the region in a summer-long battle for pride, glory, and some serious prize money.

The inaugural Challenge Cup was originally slated for the 2020 season before being pushed back a year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The basic format remains the same, with registered drivers taking their 10 best eligible finishes at participating tracks towards the season-long point standings.

However, the scope of the program has grown tremendously during the one-year hiatus. Nine tracks from four New England states have signed up, nearly double the amount that were originally registered for 2020.

The increase in tracks also means an increase in the season-ending awards. A guaranteed minimum point fund of \$14,000



Alan Ward is one racer who will be trying to compete in the Late Model Challenge Cup this year. SUBMITTED PHOTO

has been posted for the Challenge Cup. The \$100 registration fee for each driver will also be added to the point fund in full. For example, if 40 drivers sign up for the series, another \$4,000 would be added to the point fund for a total of \$18,000.

Should registration be on pace with the 2020 pre-pandemic numbers, the total point fund could exceed \$20,000. A minimum prize

of \$3,000 goes to the overall winner. At least the top-10 drivers in the final standings will receive payouts.

Several big contingency and raffle awards have been posted, adding even more value to the program for racer. A Port City Chassis by Crazy Horse Racing will be raffled off at season's end. To qualify for the chassis raffle,

RACING | page 9

HOCKEY

Football postseason vote reconsidered

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION — The actual composition of the high school football season is back up in the air after the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association voted to reconsider its decision on a format for the 2021-2022 season.

Just a few weeks after agreeing on a format that would be used this fall, the MIAA Board of Directors backtracked on the vote, voting overwhelming in favor in a special meeting last Thursday morning to reconsider its decision.

This fall is set to be the first under the new statewide tournament format that was voted into effect in early 2020. Unfortunately, Western Massachusetts schools did not have the opportunity to have one final sectional tournament before the new tournament format takes effect.

The original vote was to have a nine-week season beginning Labor Day weekend and going to

the first week of November. There would then be eight qualifying teams per Division to participate in a statewide tournament. There are currently scheduled to be eight divisions in high school football though their exact composition has not been determined. Most other high school sports will be divided into five divisions in order to level the competition throughout the state.

One other proposal presented a few weeks back was to have an eight-week qualifying campaign, much similar to the existing format. The only difference being the fact the playoffs will be a state tournament instead of a four-team sectional, followed by state semifinals. The state finals would still be scheduled to take place after Thanksgiving, and Thanksgiving holiday matchups could still be preserved.

One thing that would change are the consolation games that occurred among non-playoff teams. The consolation games

FOOTBALL | page 9

Sports

HOCKEY ■ from page 8

ated from Southern New Hampshire University a couple of years apart, but they’ve known each other for more than ten years. Rowley wasn’t expecting Bousquet to take it easy on his team in the first meeting of the season.

“I would never expect Kyle to take it easy on my team because I would never take it easy on him,” Rowley said. “I’m hoping that things do go a little bit differently when we play Minnechaug again next week.”

The two teams are scheduled to meet for the second time back at Olympia at 8:40 on Thursday night.

A year ago, Minnechaug posted a 6-0 shutout win in the first meeting of the season against Agawam. The second meeting was a much closer affair, as the Falcons escaped with a 4-3 victory.

Rowley, who had been an assistant coach at Agawam High School for the past five years, replaced Rich Feeley as the varsity coach. Feeley decided to step down from his coaching position due to personal reasons.

A total of 13 Minnechaug players either had a goal or an assist in the season opener against the Brownies.

It was a very memorable game for Minnechaug senior Samuel Raco, who scored a total of five goals. He only scored four goals as a junior.”

“Sam is a senior and it was nice to see him score five goals in the first game of the season,” Bousquet said. “I believe it’s the most goals that he has scored in a varsity hockey game.”

Sophomore Tyler Genovese and senior Dominic Terzi both recorded hat-tricks for the Falcons in the season opener. Terzi, who recorded his first career hat-trick as a sophomore against West Springfield, was credited with two assists versus Agawam.

The duo of sophomore Jackson Duquette (5 assists) and junior Derek Grout (4 assists) combined for nine assists in the season opening victory. Sophomore David Noel had three assists.

“We did lose five or six seniors from last year’s team that played defense, so that unit is young and inexperienced,” Bousquet said. “We did return nine forwards and that’s a very strong unit. We shouldn’t have very much trouble offensively this year.”

Raco got things rolling in the right direction for the Falcons by knocking home a rebound shot at 2:24 of the first period.

Five minutes later, Duquette scored his first goal of the season on a breakaway shot.

Minnechaug took a 3-0 lead with 10.3 seconds left in the first period following Terzi’s first goal.

The Falcons managed to kill a couple of penalties during the first five minutes of the second period before scoring three more goals in a span of two minutes. Those three goals were scored by junior Gavin Weichselbaumer, Genovese, and Terzi.

The goal by Genovese came on a power-play. He would score another power-play goal with 5:57 remaining in the period.

Trailing, 7-0, the Brownies were able to end the Falcons shutout hopes 26 seconds later. That’s when Agawam sophomore Nick Shea put a shot into the net past Minnechaug senior goalie Corby Marini. The Brownies only goal was assisted by senior’s Dean Kadonaga and Andrew Grasso, who are co-captains.

“You never want to be shutout in a game,” Rowley said. “It was nice to see Nick score his second goal of the season. He has really stepped up for us so far this season.”

Marini would be replaced in goal by sophomore John



Drew Scherban heads up the left side of the ice. PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM



Evan Danek goes straight up the middle.

Pollard at the start of the third period.

Raco would score two more goals during the last five minutes of the second period. He also added two more goals to his score sheet during the final period.

The other two Falcons goals were scored by Terzi and Genovese.

“There isn’t going to be a postseason tournament this year,” Bousquet said. “Our main goal this year is to not lose a game.”

RACING ■ from page 8

drivers must register by the deadline and attempt to qualify for at least 10 point-counting events.

ARBodies and Five Star Bodies are each awarding a \$500 product certificate. Drivers who finish in the overall top-10 and have declared they are running an AR or Five Star body will be eligible for these raffles.

Drivers who register by the early-entry deadline of March 1 will also be entered into a Hoosier Tire raffle. Two randomly chosen entrants each receive two free ACT Late Model tires from Hoosier. ACT will also honor the tire awards of the 2020 pre-pandemic raffle winners if they register for this year’s Challenge Cup.

“This program is a huge step forward for weekly Late Model racing in New England,” ACT managing partner Cris Michaud said. “The Challenge Cup was one of the things we were most excited about in 2020 before the pandemic. Now, with nearly twice as many tracks on board plus some great contingency partners, it’s going to be even bigger for teams and fans.”

“Weekly racers are the backbone of the sport, and it’s important to reward them for their efforts,” Michaud went on. “We’ve come up with a program that does so and which we think will boost car counts and action throughout the region.”

Four tracks from the original 2020 slate will return for the 2021 debut: Barre, VT’s Thunder Road Speedbowl; North Woodstock, NH’s White Mountain Motorsports Park; Connecticut’s Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park; and Massachusetts’ Seekonk Speedway.

Five other tracks have joined the Challenge Cup. Connecticut’s New London-Waterford Speedbowl will be the second Connecticut track. Furthermore, four tracks from

the New Hampshire Short Track Racing Association (NHSTRA) have signed up: Monadnock Speedway, Lee USA Speedway, Hudson Speedway, and Claremont Speedway.

Any competitor at the four NHSTRA tracks must use the ACT Late Model rules option the organization has introduced for the 2021 season. In other words, cars need to be 100% ACT legal for drivers to earn Challenge Cup points.

All weekly Late Model features at participating tracks will be eligible for the Challenge Cup. Registered drivers can earn Challenge Cup points at any of the nine tracks. For example, a Thunder Road Late Model regular can also earn points at White Mountain, and a Thompson Speedway regular can also earn points at New London-Waterford Speedbowl or Monadnock Speedway.

A driver’s 10 best performances across all tracks count towards their NELMCC total. Points will be awarded based on finishing position, car count, and cars passed. The full system is available at www.acttour.com/NELMCC.

Participating tracks are responsible for reporting results to the ACT offices. ACT Late Model Tour events and “open events” at these tracks are not eligible for Challenge Cup points.

To register for the New England Late Model Challenge Cup, drivers must submit the entry form along with a \$100 registration fee by Monday, April 5. Entries postmarked by Monday, March 1 will be eligible for the Hoosier tire drawing. The entry form and point system outline are available at www.acttour.com/NELMCC and on participating track websites. For more information, contact the ACT offices at (802) 244-6963, media@acttour.com, or visit www.acttour.com. You can also get updates on Facebook and Twitter at @ACTTour.

Full slate of Mass Golf championships return this season

NORTON – Mass Golf is excited to announce the return of a full schedule for Championships and Women’s Championships during the 2021 season. While Mass Golf was able to conduct a majority of its events and qualifiers in 2020, this year’s slate will also include the return of events canceled last year due to COVID-19, such as the Massachusetts Open.

According to Kevin Eldridge, Mass Golf’s Director of Rules and Competitions, about 60 championship events, including 18-hole qualifying rounds, are being scheduled, and they will take place at 63 different Mass Golf Member Clubs. In total, more than 4,600 registrations are expected. “This year’s lineup of championship events and qualifiers wouldn’t have been possible without the support and dedication of all our host clubs,” Eldridge said.

“As we enter into what we plan to be a full season of Mass Golf events, we remain committed to maintaining the level of care and attention put towards keeping our competitors, volunteers, host club personnel, and staff safe,” said Jesse Menachem, Mass Golf Executive Director/CEO. “Statewide and nationally, golf was recognized as a safe recreational activity during times of great restriction and we are confident that we will keep this positive momentum surrounding the sport going into the 2021 season.”

Online registrations for 2021 Mass Golf events will begin in early March. Additional details surrounding the new registration platform and the registration open dates will be provided in the coming weeks.

Hampshire association seeking umpires

REGION – The Hampshire Franklin Baseball Umpire Association (HFBUA) is planning to conduct classes for the 2021 baseball season following all recommended COVID-19 protocols including the possibility of on-line instruction. The association covers umpiring of scholastic baseball for all of Hampshire and Franklin county schools registered under MIAA and several other baseball leagues in the area. If you are interested in umpiring baseball or obtaining further information regarding the upcoming classes please contact Roger Booth - Secretary/Treasurer of the HFBUA via email at quilthunter@comcast.net.

FOOTBALL ■ from page 8

were determined by a committee in the MIAA for Weeks 9 and 10 as a way to bridge the gap for teams between the eight-week qualifying season and Thanksgiving.

Now, the MIAA is not planning to specifically come up with matchups, but one area athletic director, Agawam’s David Stratton, said a local organization, like the PVIAC, could determine non-playoff games based on who is not involved in the tournament.

“If we did non-playoff games, it would have to be done on a local level,” said Stratton.

Following the reconsideration vote, there was a motion for the nine-week season again, but it was defeated.

Now, the exact regular season format will have to wait until a future meeting as the meeting concluded without a new vote on how many weeks the regular season will be.

In Western Massachusetts, teams will still be playing in competitive conferences, which usually consist of five to seven teams. Depending on whether the regular season will be eight or nine weeks, teams would have to pick up independent games against non-conference teams.

Football teams will have an opportunity to play again in the Fall 2 season, set for next month. However, there will be no playoffs for the Fall 2 season.

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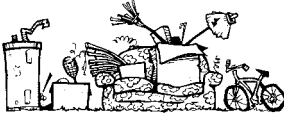
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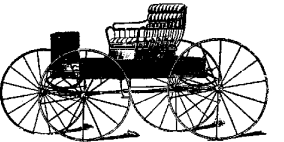
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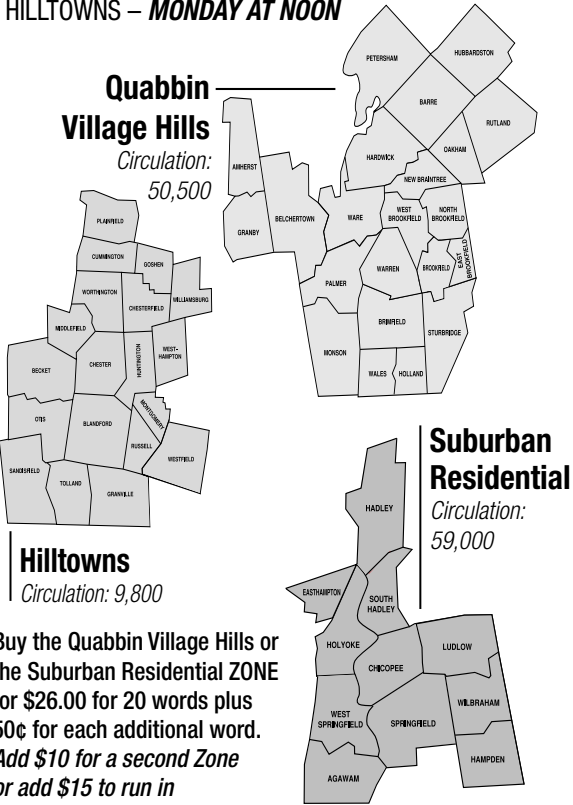
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Docket No. HD21P0019EA
Estate of:
Paul Baldyga
Date of Death: 11/20/2019
CITATION ON
PETITION FOR
FORMAL
ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Terri B Rockefeller** of East Windsor CT requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Terri B Rockefeller** of East Windsor CT be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition

from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 03/08/2021.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: February 08, 2021
Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
02/11/2021

LEGAL NOTICE Agawam Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Public Hearing

The Agawam Planning and Community Development Department will conduct a public hearing regarding their ongoing Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG). The hearing will be **digital/remote meeting held 6:30 PM on Wednesday, February 24, 2021.**

The primary purpose of the hearing will be to discuss a proposed amendment to Agawam's FY 2019 CDBG Program. Projects currently being funded through this grant include improvements to Brady Village and Microenterprise Assistance.

The Brady Village project is now substantially complete and under the estimated budget. Also, other sources of funds are now available for Microenterprise Assistance. Therefore, Agawam is considering reprogramming CDBG funds to resurrect a comprehensive infrastructure planning study for North Agawam. The planning study was originally funded as part of this grant; however, funds were redirected in support to Microenterprise Assistance. As funding allows, additional housing

rehabilitation services including Aging in Place, will also be considered as part of this proposed amendment.

Any person or organization having questions or comments concerning the CDBG program and ongoing activities will have an opportunity to be heard. Persons who require special accommodations should contact the Agawam Planning and Community Development Department prior to the hearing date at (413)786-0400.

This meeting will be conducted remotely through

Zoom; an online audio web media conferencing platform. Persons who wish to attend and comment on the CDBG program may do so by joining the meeting through the following web link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85099903716?pwd=WW-1wKy93MmFjeUR1eEZqeT-BCdlhOZz09>

Marc Strange, Director
Planning and Community
Development

02/11/2021

PUBLIC NOTICES | page 12

Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.

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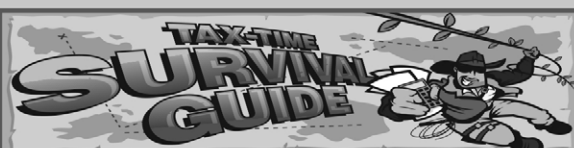
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Springfield Symphony Orchestra announces virtual events

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Symphony Orchestra is extending its virtual adult music education offerings with two new events for Winter 2021: Feb. 18, at 7:30 p.m. Brahms’ Last Hurrah with Maestro Kevin Rhodes. In the fall, Maestro Rhodes led a lively and jam-packed session touching on the beginnings and endings of the nine Beethoven Symphonies, giving a fast and furious thumbnail sketch of how Beethoven’s work over the course of his entire creative life compared with the music of his time. This time, the last movement of Symphony No. 4 in E Minor by Johannes Brahms will be under the microscope, providing the basis of an entirely different lecture focusing on and digging into the details of Beethoven’s final symphonic movement. This energetic 90-minute presentation will include insights from the Maestro, musical excerpts, and plenty of time for your questions.

On March 4, at 7:30 p.m. The Art of the Audition: From Conservatory to Career with SSO’s Principal Cellist Emily Taubl SSO’s Principal Cellist Emily Taubl will offer an engaging and interactive discussion on the intimidating world of auditions! Ever wonder what it’s really like to step into an audition room? Curious about how an audition is run or what the panel



Cellist Emily Taubl will do a virtual performance. SUBMITTED PHOTOS

is looking for? In this 90-minute presentation, Emily will share stories and play excerpts on her cello to give a behind-the-scenes look at auditioning for The Juilliard School, Yale School of Music and the New England Conservatory as well as professional orchestral auditions. It will be a night of laughter, engaging discussion, and Q&A that’s perfect for musicians and non-musicians alike.

Both events will be held via Zoom, and the link will be emailed after reg-



Maestro Kevin Rhodes is schedule to perform later this month.

istration. Full details and registration information are available on the Symphony website at <https://www.springfieldsymphony.org/adult-music-education-classes>. Registration closes a half hour before each event.

Through the Card to Culture program, individuals who are EBT, WIC, or ConnectorCare card holders may get free tickets to this event. Contact Education Director Kirsten Lipkens at klipkens@springfieldsymphony.org if you are interested.

Participate in virtual photography show

AGAWAM – Please join us online to participate in our first virtual photography show. Since we couldn’t do our usual exhibit at the library, we moved it online so we can continue to share outstanding photography with our community, and to support our beloved library. Officially, this is our First Open Virtual Photography Show. Categories include creative, nature, pictorial, and photojournalism, and the photography never disappoints.

Awards totaling \$1,340 have been determined by our

esteemed judges Amy S. Dane and Barbara Krawczyk, both highly respected photographers. Their comments are available online, along with the photographs, so the Show can continue to be an educational experience for participants.

The show can be accessed at www.agawamlibrary.org/about-2/friends/#FriendsPhotoShowFirstVirtual. For further information please contact Bob Kadis at r.kadis@comcast.net or at 413-789-4814.

Public Notices

from page 11

Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and
Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No. HD21P0117GD
In the matter of:
Earl M Rivers
Of: Agawam, MA
RESPONDENT
Alleged Incapacitated
Person
CITATION GIVING
NOTICE OF PETITION
FOR APPOINTMENT OF
GUARDIAN FOR
INCAPACITATED
PERSON PURSUANT TO
G.L. c. 190B, §5-304

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by

Russell E Rivers of Feeding Hills, MA

Gary E Rivers of Agawam, MA

in the above captioned matter alleging that **Earl M Rivers** is in need of a Guardian and requesting that

Russell E Rivers of Feeding Hills, MA

Gary E Rivers of Agawam, MA

(or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve **Without Surety** on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition

is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before **10:00 AM, on the return date of 03/01/2021.** This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person’s right to make decisions about) personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: January 25, 2021

Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
02/11/2021

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